



# FIA Icon *online*

A product of the Michigan **Family Independence Agency**

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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**Family  
Independence  
Agency**

June 16, 2003

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## **Oakland County effort aids military & family members**

Military personnel in Iraq and their family members will be able to speak together without cost thanks to an effort organized by an Oakland County Family Independence Agency caseworker. **Gerald Hopper**, a family independence specialist with Oakland County FIA in Pontiac, spearheaded the effort that will result in more than 25,000 free minutes of telephone time for military personnel and their families.



"Through voluntary action with Oakland County FIA staff, we collected over 26,000 minutes or over 433 hours in phone cards," Hopper said May 9.

"We will donate these to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in Arlington, Va. They will distribute the cards to men and women in need."

Hopper, a Naval reservist, was inspired to begin the effort by another Naval reservist in Detroit who put together a similar campaign for the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md. Working with other Oakland FIA volunteers, the campaign got under way in mid-April.

"Everybody's been very supportive and generous," Hopper said. "The troops will be very touched knowing people at home haven't forgotten them."

Hopper said recognition belongs to the volunteers in the Oakland County districts offices that worked hard to make this phone card project a reality. They include **Kathy Hopper**, an eligibility specialist; **Joanne Hiznay**, a family independence manager; **Michael Setterington** and **Christina Tafoya** from children's services; **Rebecca Bandemer**, a family independence specialist; **Dorothy Butler**, district manager; and former Oakland County director **Samuel Chambers**.

"Mr. Chambers is the person that gave us final approval to run this county-wide," Hopper said. "We are all very grateful to him."

■ For more about the **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**, please link to [www.nmcrrs.org](http://www.nmcrrs.org)

## **My turn**

By Nannette M. Bowler

Director, Family Independence Agency

[Bowlern@michigan.gov](mailto:Bowlern@michigan.gov)

Two things happened in May that affected public employees. Both impacted our lives as public employees and showed the effects of our decisions.

First was the celebration of State Employees Appreciation Day. This event highlights state employees and our work. I hope you participated in this in some small way or felt a reward from this celebration.

A second event was very different, when a pair of social workers from a private agency under contract to the FIA were charged by a county prosecutor for alleged negligence in the handling of a foster care child killed by his foster parents. While this did not directly affect FIA employees, it – and the events of state employees' appreciation day – pointed out how far-reaching the impact can be from work of public employees' work.

I want each of you to know I value your contributions and support your efforts to assist Michigan's most vulnerable citizens. Whether you are a



### **FIA Icon online**

a publication of Michigan's  
**Family Independence Agency**

**Jennifer M. Granholm,**  
Governor  
State of Michigan

### **Family Independence Agency**

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Budget, Administration & Finance

receptionist at the front desk in our local offices, a FIS or ES providing medical or financial support to a family, a services specialist assisting troubled adults or children or one of our highest level managers, you are the heart of our agency. We are all in this together and together we will continue to improve services to our customers.

I know how difficult and complex your jobs are and respect the professionalism that you exhibit on a daily basis. I understand you are asked to make decisions that have serious impact on the lives of children and families, while respecting the dignity of the individuals involved. I encourage you to continue to perform those activities with a renewed commitment to being the best you can possibly be.

I wish I could say everything is going to be smooth sailing for us from here to eternity, but you know better. We are entering a time when the state budget doesn't support everything we do now. Caseloads and demand for our services remain stubbornly high. Our work – whether at home or statewide – has never been more visible.

Even throughout this we have an opportunity to review the way we do our jobs and improve outcomes for our customers. If you have ideas about how to improve our processes that you wish to share with me, I encourage you to send them to me, either through an e-mail message or a memo to my office.

With your support and cooperation, we will move ahead successfully and better meet the needs of Michigan's citizens. Thank you for all you do!

## **Intercepted letters**

**Date:** April 7  
**To:** Shiawassee County Family Independence Agency, Owosso  
**Subj:** Wendy Griffin

I am writing this letter in regards to our previous caseworker **Wendy Griffin**. I would like to extend a thank you to her for all her help during our time of need. She was so easy to talk to, helpful and very sincere. During orientation she was very thorough and patient with us and the rest of the group that bombarded her with a lot of questions. She was very encouraging throughout the entire orientation not only answering our questions but giving us a sense of hope and reassurance.

There were numerous times where we would call and ask her dozens of questions and she would always take the time to provide detailed answers to our many questions. It's obvious she takes pride in her work because she does it so accurately and quickly and for that we can't thank her enough. Wendy is a truly remarkable woman who needs to be recognized for the outstanding work she does and the difference she makes in people's lives.

**Steven & Kathleen Smith  
Perry**

■ Wendy Griffin is a family independence specialist with Shiawassee County FIA. Kay Andrzejak submitted this while acting director in Shiawassee County.

**Date:** April 2  
**To:** Denise Chambers, Director  
Genesee County FIA, Flint  
**Subj:** Joyce Ernst

On Sunday, March 30, **Joyce Ernst** went above and beyond her job responsibilities in assisting on-call Children's Protective Services worker Wendy Amburgey. Five disabled children 10 years (of age) and younger had to be placed in care. Three of the children were wheelchair (users) and two were on ventilators.

# Letters policy

"Intercepted letters" is one of the most popular features in FIA Icon *online*. Correspondence submitted for publication must have the approval of the author in order to be printed. Unsigned letters and signed correspondence requesting the author's identity be hidden will not be published.

Correspondence from FIA customers or service applicants must be accompanied by a **signed Consent for Publication** form. This self-explanatory form can be downloaded from the MS Word template as form **0199.dot**. The consent form must include the names of other family members cited in the letter. When correspondence comes from a minor, a parent must give approval by signing the consent form. When the author is not an FIA customer or service applicant, rules of courtesy apply and the author should verbally approve your decision to publish before correspondence is submitted.

Joyce not only found homes for these children but she and her husband, with the use of their personal van, assisted in moving the children. It had already been an extremely difficult weekend for our on-call workers and the children's district. Joyce's cooperative attitude and willingness to be a true team player are appreciated more than words can ever express.

**Karen J. Sugar-Smith**

**Program Section Manager**

**Genesee County FIA, Flint**

■ Joyce Ernst is an adoption-licensing worker for Genesee County and, "Someone who is never on-call but just a superstar," said Chambers. "I recognized her for her dedication and commitment to the safety of children with a director's pin, 'Attitude is Everything'."

**Date: Jan. 8**

**To: Steve Gervasi**

**Disability Determination Service, Detroit**

**Subj: Linda McGowan, Disability Examiner**

This letter is to inform you of the excellent service received from Ms. **(Linda) McGowan**, with regard to my sister's disability claim. At age 42 my sister had an inexplicable, severe and life-threatening stroke that resulted in her disability. While inpatient in intensive care at Henry Ford Hospital we were told to start the disability claim process. Ms. McGowan was ultimately assigned as the disability examiner.

As a concerned family, we had numerous questions regarding the entire disability process. When I first spoke with Ms. McGowan, she sensed that the situation was overwhelming and was very patient in listening, courteous and kind. She made me feel comfortable that we as a family would get through this process. All my follow-up phone calls were always greeted with that same kindness and compassion.

I could say more but my family (especially my sister and me) just wanted to express our thanks and gratitude for the exceptional service Ms. McGowan provided, and request that this letter be placed in her personnel file.

**Katrina L. Crawley**

**Detroit**

■ Linda McGowan is a disability examiner with Michigan Disability Determination Service in Detroit.

## Local news

A **Kalamazoo Disability Determination Service** staff-led team walked to raise funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society April 12. "Team captain **Connie Zeller** reports we may exceed the \$2,000 mark once all pledges are in," said **Byron Haskins** of DDS in Kalamazoo. "Along with spouses and family members, the team consisted of **Debora Tyler**, **Randy Griswold**, Connie Zeller and myself. **Consuelia Walker** was there, helping with registration.

"The preliminary totals are \$1,934 with \$50 coming from the sneaker walk down the wall from the 5th floor break room. Thanks from the team and the National MS Society for your support."

The Erie Post 3925 VFW Ladies Auxiliary donated 41 "Kits for Kids" to **Monroe County FIA** on March 24. Kits included toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, diapers, formula, socks, t-shirts, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, baby bottles, pacifiers and much more, said **Angie Jenerette**, director of Monroe County FIA.

"The boxes were labeled and marked for infant, toddler, young girl, young boy, teenage girl, and teenage boy," Jenerette said. "Foster care staff use these boxes for children who enter foster care on an emergency basis.

"This is the third year they have donated the items. We are very thankful for their generosity and commitment to help children in our community."



**Sam Chambers**



**Margaret Warner**



**Alisha Slone**



**Tracie Gillum**

## **FIA people**

FIA director **Nannette Bowler** announced May 20 the appointment of **Samuel Chambers** as administrator for the Family to Family program in the FIA. Chambers had been acting director of Oakland County FIA. "Sam has held a number of key position within the agency," Bowler said. "He brings to the Family to Family role his expertise in management (and) commitment in collaboration (for) children and families."

Wayne County Zone X manager **Margaret Warner** will assume the acting director role at Oakland County FIA and will be assisted by **Barbara MacKenzie**, director of policy and program development in FIA Bureau of Juvenile Justice.

Branch County FIA caseworkers **Alisha Slone** and **Tracie Gillum** received a "Lifesaving Award" during local ceremonies as part of Peace Officers Memorial Day in Coldwater in May. Slone and Gillum earned the award for helping wheelchair-ambulatory residents out of a burning home in Coldwater last October. You can read about their exploits in the January 2003 issue of FIA Icon.

**FIA Telecommunications** staff were feted during a May 6 administrative meeting for saving the agency \$130,000 in telephone charges.

"Telecommunications staff have done some extraordinary efforts to identify billing errors and have been shutting down excess phone capacity," said **Michael Scieszka**, FIA chief financial officer. "Bottom line – the FIA received a check for \$130,000 as one part of a refund."

FIA departmental services manager **Dan Werk** and **Ruth Goldman** from the telecommunications unit accepted plaudits on behalf of all telecommunications staff, taking the following photo at the May 6 meeting.



**Above left to right:** FIA deputy director Don Weatherspoon, director Nannette Bowler, Ruth Goldman and Dan Werk displaying the \$130,000 refund check.

**Otsego and Crawford county FIA** employees were involved in actions to help American soldiers overseas, said **Cindy Pushman**, director of the two counties, on May 2.





**Michael Downer**



**Doug Lapham**



**Jan Baszler**



**Douglas Williams**



**Gwain McCree**

“**Kim Lauterwasser**’s son is over in Iraq with a Marine division,” she said. Lauterwasser is an Otsego County family independence specialist. “**Marty Dellenbach** and **Joy Breckow**, staff in Otsego County FIA, invited all staff within the dual counties – Otsego and Crawford – to bring in items to send to Kim’s son in Iraq.

“Both offices donated so many items that four boxes were sent to Ian (who) is in Baghdad and has spoken to his mother about what he and his friends need. Ian was very surprised when Kim told her son that the office was sending him some things. He couldn’t believe people that didn’t know him would be thinking of him.”

Staffers sent items Ian requested including socks, underwear, peanuts, canned meat, hard candy, or candy that doesn’t melt, deodorant, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, disposable camera, cotton swabs, chips, crackers tobacco, and chap stick.

“There is enough that Ian can share his package with his buddies,” she said.

FIA chief deputy director **Donald Weatherspoon** announced the appointment of **Michael Downer** as acting director of FIA Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunity, effective May 1. Downer replaces **Mike Masternak**, who retired April 30.

FIA executive assistant **Jocelyn Vanda** announced the appointment of **Chris Hunter** as acting director of Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns, effective May 1. Hunter replaces **Gerry Mutty**, who retired April 30, while continuing to serve as director of the MCDC Division on Deafness and Hard of Hearing.

Wayne County FIA director **Jerome Rutland** announced the appointment of **Anthony Calleja** as senior executive management assistant in his office. “Anthony fills the role of the secretary 12 vacated as the result of early retirements,” Rutland said.

FIA director Nannette Bowler announced county directorships in March, April and May including:

- **Douglas Lapham** as director of Benzie-Manistee County FIA, effective May 5.
- **Dennis Major** acting director of Mecosta-Osceola County FIA, effective April 27.
- **Susan Fulton** as director of Shiawassee County FIA, effective April 27.
- **Jan Baszler** as director of Clinton-Gratiot County FIA, effective April 13.
- **Mary Marois** as director of Grand Traverse-Leelenau FIA, effective March 30.
- **Douglas Williams** as director of Ingham County FIA, effective March 30.
- **Julia Hadas** as director of Baraga-Marquette FIA, effective March 30.
- **Robert Adams** as director Midland-Gladwin FIA, effective March 30.
- **Robert Roberge** as director of Dickinson-Iron County FIA, effective March 30.
- **Gwain McCree** as director of Calhoun County FIA, effective March 30.
- **Russell Sexton** as director of Delta-Menominee FIA, effective March 30.

## Links to .....

### Achievers of the Month

May 2003: Jodie Garcia of Allegan County

April 2003: Yolanda Hightower of Wayne County

### News Releases

Final phase of child support computer system begins in mid-Michigan

\$990,000 grant supports Healthy Marriages/Healthy Relationships

Bowler addresses Domestic Violence Board 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception

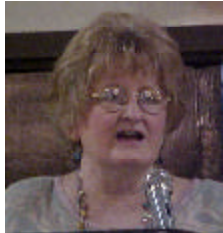
For information on Achievers of the Month and recent news, [click here](#)

### Tips and Topics for Serving Your Families

See these informative collections on the [FIA-Net](#) under “Employee Information”.



**Lori Lindsey**



**Sharon Cameron**



**Kevin Mark**



**Steve Gleason**

## Safety Summit 2003

Early retirements delayed last year's Safety Summit, but neither that nor a continuing state budget problem deters the FIA from making employee safety a priority. That was the message at the third **Safety Summit**, held May 15 in Lansing.

About 150 FIA employees and presenters gathered to discuss the current state of employee safety and make recommendations for the future. Presenters included FIA director **Nannette Bowler**, acting Office of Human Services (OHR) director **Michael Downer**, **Lori Lindsey** from Wayne County FIA Office of Professional Development, **Sharon Cameron** of OHR, **Sgt. Kevin Mark** from Michigan State Police and **Steve Gleason**, emergency management coordinator for the FIA.

The afternoon was dedicated to group discussions and recommendations on safety topics and FIA deputy director **Jim Nye** gave a closing address. Recently retired OHR director **Mike Masternak** emceed the event.

Bowler addressed safety issues and also provided insight into her goals for the FIA. She said three priorities in the agency are worker infrastructure, streamlining interagency relationships and improving mental health services to FIA customers. She cited policy and computer system simplification as critical elements in worker infrastructure.

"You can't build a house when the foundation's not done," she said. Bowler called FIA policies "voluminous," saying they "keep us from doing our job." She called the agency's emphasis on security "Governor Granholm's commitment to worker safety."

When addressing Michigan's "Lisa's law" legislation that makes it illegal to impersonate an FIA employee Bowler joked that, "With all the work you guys are doing, I find it hard to believe anyone would want to impersonate you."

Lindsey discussed Rapid Response Teams, which are created to respond quickly to threats or violence to ensure a safe working environment for employees. She said team responsibilities include assisting in incident investigation, documentation and follow-up, working with OHR on any violent incidents that occur at a work site, and making recommendations for improvement in violence prevention.

Cameron unveiled an electronic incident reporting form available on the FIA-Net OHR site used specifically for workplace violence, assaults or threats. The electronic form allows OHR to collect incident reports statewide and accumulate them for reporting purposes. She said the MS Word incident reporting Form 3904 will be adapted to this, as well.

Data released at the Safety Summit showed that FIA staff reported 498 accidents, illnesses and incidents in Fiscal Year 2002 including six assaults by non-youth clients, one assault by a coworker, and 47 reports in the "restraining youth, youth assault" category.

State Police Sgt. Mark provided a broad overview of Michigan's homeland security activities, saying the State Police director is Michigan's director of homeland security, many of which are connected to the international U.S.-Canadian border. He said security actions are "threat-driven."

"If you live where a threat is real, I guarantee you'll know about it," Mark said.

He outlined the state's security infrastructure network and discussed the "seven signs of terrorism" that always accompanies such action. They include:

- Surveillance – where someone is recording or monitoring activities.
- Elicitation, where people or organizations seek to gain information about the operation.
- Tests of security – any attempt to measure reaction times to security breaches.
- Acquiring supplies such as explosives, weapons or ammunition to carry out the event.

## Worker safety chronology

For a review of FIA worker safety improvements since 1998, see the “Worker Safety Chronology” at FIA-Net under “Human Resources”, “Office of Human Resources” or [click here](#).

- Suspicious persons being out of place – people who don’t seem to belong in the workplace or neighborhood, including suspicious border crossings.
- Dry run – putting people in position according to a plan of action with carrying out the act.
- Deploying assets, where people and supplies get into position to commit an action.

Mark said citizen tips are the best way to deter this kind of activity. “The community is the eyes and ears of law enforcement,” he said.

Gleason closed the morning presentations by discussing agency security efforts, many of which double security efforts Mark talked about.

“Where I work – the Grand Tower in Lansing – we wear (and display) security badges all day,” Gleason said. “It helps keep an eye on individuals that maybe don’t belong.”

He said security measures include requirements that all FIA employees escort customers to and from their work areas and not allow unfettered access throughout workplaces.

He said Department of Management and Budget owned buildings were all secured post 9/11, saying fronts and loading docks were barricaded. “They simply banned everything,” he said.

## Maxey youth dinner theater a success

From Veronica Maxson

W.J. Maxey Boys Training School, Whitmore Lake

[Maxsonv@michigan.gov](mailto:Maxsonv@michigan.gov)

Residents in several programs presented a special fundraising event earlier in the spring.

On March 27-28 students at [W.J. Maxey Boys Training School](#) presented a dinner theater to raise funds for the Fernando Youth Initiative. Students in the culinary arts vocational program, led by Chef Paul, prepared a prime rib dinner complete with sensational desserts.

Following dinner was an original stage performance written and acted by students in the performing arts class called “M.Y. Apartment” (my in the title is for Maxey youth). The performance included an original song and dance and excerpts from the musical “South Pacific”.

The dinner theater requested a \$20 minimum donation, with proceeds benefiting the Fernando Youth Initiative. This non-profit initiative was established for the purpose

of funding a building trades vocational program sponsored by the carpenters/millwrights union.

The money is to be used to pay the students in the building trades program as union apprentices, the salary of an instructor as well as all materials and supplies. This initiative is led by [Lee Craft, Ph.D.](#), Maxey Academic Center principal, in conjunction with [Enzo Zoppi](#), a carpenter’s union representative who is also a former Maxey student.

The building trades course is one of many vocational programs offered at Maxey Training School, which also include electricity, painting and decorating, graphic arts and cosmetology.

The dinner theater was presented two evenings, the first night dedicated for Maxey staff and families of the students participating and the second evening being dedicated to members of the local community. Over the two nights about \$1,300 was raised for the Fernando Youth Initiative.







**Maura Corrigan**



**Irma Clark-Coleman**



**Loren Hager**



**Bill Long**



**Jean Hoffman**

## Honoring foster parents

Foster parents, foster children, state officials and others braved a rainy spring day to honor Michigan foster and adoptive parents April 30.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm proclaimed May as Foster Care Month in Michigan and the April 30 event at the state Capitol kicked off the month.

"Foster parents give our children the greatest hope – hope for a brighter future," said Granholm.

Michigan Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (MFAPA), whose director, Myrna McNitt, served as master of ceremonies, hosted the event.

Speakers that day included FIA director **Nannette Bowler**, state Supreme Court Chief Justice **Maura Corrigan**, state **Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman** of Detroit and state **Rep. Loren Hager** of Port Huron Township.

Other speakers included foster parents & former foster children and officials including **Bill Long** from Michigan Federation for Children and Families, FIA Child & Family Services acting director **Jean Hoffman**, **Myrna McNitt**, director of the Michigan Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, and **Verlie Ruffin** from Michigan Federation for Children and Families

"The FIA is pleased to join our partners, customers, private agencies and the MFAPA for this kickoff," said Bowler. "The success of Michigan's adoption program can be attributed to the unique partnership between the public and private agencies responsible for adoption planning and placement of foster children who become permanent state wards.

"Twenty-eight children enter the foster care system every day," she said.

Corrigan used the moment to announce an adoption work group organized to shorten the "organizational limbo" for children.

"We know our courts can do more to shorten the time these children spend in procedural limbo," she said. "We know the children want and need permanent stable homes. They and we don't want the process to be strung out."

The work group includes FIA administrators **Donna Mullins** and Hoffman, as well as Judges **Susan Dobrich** of Cass County, **Mary Beth Kelly** of Wayne County and **Susan Reck** of Livingston County.

Foster parents and former (now adult) foster children told stories of life, funding, lack of same and growing up. One adult former foster child said she'd be, "Six feet under or behind bars without my foster grandmother."

Foster Care is founded on the premise that all children have the right to physical care, emotional nurturing and educational opportunities. The Foster Care program is designed to provide a substitute family life experience for a child in a household approved and licensed by the Family Independence Agency.

## Court order continues interactive video court

Michigan Supreme Court issued **Administrative Order 2003-4** April 22, affecting certain child protective services, foster care and juvenile justice cases.

The order extends the experimental use of two-way interactive video technology in Family Division of Circuit Court and Probate Court – first authorized by Order 2001-4 – until July 1, 2004 or until further order of the court.

The order said, "Prisons, the offices of Family Independence Agency child protective workers, and the offices of foster care workers from the FIA or private agencies with whom the FIA contracts for child foster care services are added to the list of venues that may be linked to a courtroom for the conduct of those proceedings authorized by AO 2001-4."

The order also adds Allegan, Charlevoix, Emmet and Ontonagon counties to those that may be approved by the State Court Administrator under order 2001-4 to conduct hearings concerning initial involuntary treatment and continuing treatment in mental health cases in the Probate Court.

It adds Allegan and Ingham counties to those that may be approved to conduct in Family Division of Circuit Court:



## Divided Sixth Circuit upholds welfare drug testing ban

Gongwer News Service  
Lansing, Mich.

April 9, 2003

The state's welfare drug testing law failed to survive a second decision of the U.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals where the 12 sitting judges split evenly on whether a federal district court correctly found the law unconstitutional. The 6-6 division overturned an October decision by a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals which concluded the state had a public safety interest in requiring the tests.

The issue of drug testing welfare recipients was a defining one during the 1990s, with former Governor John Engler and other Republicans supporting the concept, while many Democrats had opposed it, saying drug tests should only be required when there is evidence a person is using illegal drugs. The requirement was one of the first laws enacted in 1999.

U.S. District Court Judge Patricia Roberts had found in 1999 that the proposed testing requirement, which the Family Independence Agency had argued would allow it to offer substance abuse services, violated the privacy rights of welfare recipients.

FIA officials said they were still reviewing the latest order and had not decided how to proceed. Drug testing began in a few areas in the state in 1999, with the plan to extend testing statewide, but a federal district court halted the testing plan shortly after it started.

- Preliminary hearings and review hearings in child protective proceedings.
- Preliminary hearings held in juvenile-delinquency proceedings to satisfy specific legal requirements.
- Postdispositional progress reviews and dispositional review hearings where the court does not order a more physically restrictive level of placement or more restrictive treatment of the juvenile.

Other counties authorized to conduct such hearings include Calhoun, Chippewa, Genesee, Gogebic, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Ottawa, Saginaw, Washtenaw and Wayne.

## FIA part of united education front

Gongwer News Service

April 14, 2003

Governor Jennifer Granholm announced April 14 that 216 elementary and middle schools in the state had not met federal adequate yearly progress standards, and she announced that nearly every state department, as well as private entities, would be enlisted to help those schools improve next year.

"This is an unprecedented partnership," Granholm said. "Every aspect of our lives top to bottom is going to be brought to bear to make sure all our schools make adequate yearly progress. ...I think it will create a revolutionary look at the way we do education."

School officials vowed to work with the administration to improve the schools. "We are not afraid," said Lansing Public Schools Superintendent Sharon Banks of the district's having schools on the list. "Everyone's going to join hands for the first time and serve as a support net for schools."

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Thomas Watkins said the results show the quality of the state's schools. "Today we're here to make the point that the glass is not half full. In fact, it's 90 percent full," he said.

Granholm still has some concerns about the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which requires the adequate yearly progress standard and provides sanctions for not meeting that standard, and said her proposal is based on the requirements in the act.

"No Child Left Behind has some flaws in it, but we're not going to blame No Child Left Behind," she said.

For instance, the act requires all schools not meeting adequate yearly progress to develop a school improvement plan to allow them to meet the standard the following year. Principals from the 216 schools on the list will be attending a weekend seminar on developing improvement plans and another seminar over the summer on leadership.

The Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel also have agreed to provide additional professional development programs for the teachers in those schools.

Granholm said she also would not be surprised to see some changes in personnel in some of the schools over the summer under the provisions of the act that allow for reorganization of the school for four consecutive years of missing adequate yearly progress.

In announcing the list of schools that had not met progress goals and the programs being put in place to help them, Ms. Granholm also attempted to demonstrate that those standards could be met by making the announcement from schools that had done so. The press conferences to announce the lists were conducted at Crary Elementary School in Detroit and Fairview Elementary School in Lansing, both of which met progress goals for 2001-02 after not having met goals at least two prior years.

"So these schools are proof that it can be done. Both had principals who could say, 'This is what we did,' " said Granholm communications director Genna Beaudoin Gent. "We have every intention of going to those schools that didn't make progress. That's where we'll spend most of our time."

## No Child Left Behind Act

On Jan. 8, 2002 President Bush signed into law the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The act is the most sweeping reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) since ESEA was enacted in 1965.

It redefines the federal role in K-12 education and seeks to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers.

It is based on four basic principles: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and an emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work.

By “we,” Gent, and earlier Granholm, meant not only Department of Education officials. While the goal of the program is the same as all school improvement programs—improving the performance of students—Ms. Granholm’s Children’s Action Network changes the focus away from the schools and onto the families and communities they serve.

The program, which includes most of the Cabinet, is chaired by the governor. **Family Independence Agency and director Nannette Bowler** are significant parts of the program to strengthen families.

“Nannette’s department (will support these priority) schools because her department serves the families in these schools,” Granholm said.

Watkins said often times schools and students most in need of assistance are surrounded by families and communities in need of assistance.

Bowler is looking at the possibility of redeploying FIA workers to be based in schools or linked to schools and communities.

She said the program would also help to bring parents into the schools and to see them as places of help rather than places of fear as some may now. “We have to be better at engaging (parents),” she said.

The Department of Community Health also is expected to be a major player in the effort as is the Department of Consumer and Industry Services. Among the latter’s roles will be changing its administrative role, licensing child care centers to require that they involve parents in education programs and that parents help children with reading.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority will be working with the schools to identify families with housing problems and aid them in resolving those. “Many of the families that feed into these schools are transient,” Granholm said. “They don’t have stable housing.”

In addition to the activity by the schools and the state, Granholm also called on the business community to have each business adopt at least one of the schools on the list to provide volunteers, mentors and other resources.